

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10-19 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New). A process for producing a vegetable puree, comprising the sequential steps of:

- (a) crushing, chopping or slicing a vegetable into pieces of 1 to 30 mm;
- (b) blanching the vegetable pieces at a temperature of 60 to 90°C;
- (c) contacting the blanched vegetable pieces with a macerating enzyme activity;
- (d) blending the macerated vegetable pieces and obtaining the vegetable puree.

Claim 11 (New). The process of claim 10, wherein the macerating enzyme activity is selected from the group consisting of pectin lyase, pectate lyase, polygalacturonase, rhamnogalacturonase, and rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase.

Claim 12 (New). The process of claim 11, wherein the macerating enzyme activity is a polygalacturonase derived from a strain of *Aspergillus* sp.

Claim 13 (New). The process of claim 12, wherein the macerating enzyme activity is a polygalacturonase derived from a strain *Aspergillus aculeatus*.

Claim 14 (New). The process of claim 11, wherein the polygalacturonase is derived from a strain of *Aspergillus aculeatus*.

Claim 15 (New). The process of claim 14, wherein the polygalacturonase is derived from a strain of *Aspergillus aculeatus*, CBS 101.43.

Claim 16 (New). The process of claim 15, wherein the polygalacturonase is described in US Patent No. 6,159,718.

Claim 17 (New). The process of claim 11, wherein the rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase is derived from *Aspergillus aculeatus*, such as the rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase described in U.S. Patent No. 5,585,256.

Claim 18 (New). The process of claim 17, wherein the rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterase is described in U.S. Patent No. 5,585,256.

Claim 19 (New). The process of claim 10, wherein the vegetable is a root vegetable such as a carrot, celery, beetroot, radish, horse-radish; or a fruit vegetable such as an apple, pear, grape, tomato, citrus, orange, lemon, lime, mandarin, prune, cherry, paprika, cucumbers, and pumpkins; or a leaf and flower vegetable such as an onion, spinach, cabbage, and cauliflower.